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Reports of the

# U.S. ~ U.S.S.R. WEDDELL POLYNYA EXPEDITION

October – November 1981

Volume 5
Sea Ice Observations



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U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory
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Sea ice conditions recorded during the Weddell Polynya Expedition (Oct-Nov 1981) are presented in several formats. These include an ice conditions map prepared by the ship's meteorological crew, a narrative ice log supplemented by photographs taken by one of the authors, and daily satellite photographs. These are presented in a format compiling each day's conditions on one or two pages. These observations are being correlated with other satellite-based estimates of ice conditions, and with other oceanographic and meteorological measurements made during the expedition.

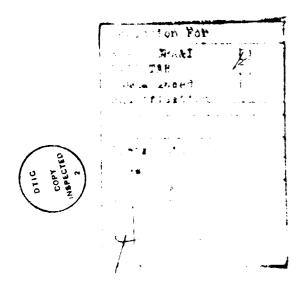
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### **PREFACE**

This report was prepared by Stephen F. Ackley, Chief, Snow and Ice Branch, Research Division, U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, and Sandra J. Smith, Mathematics Technician, SIB. The study was funded under National Science Foundation Agreement DPP-8006922, "Air-Sea Interaction and Sea Ice Studies of the Joint Weddell Polynya Expedition."

The authors thank the scientific and meteorological complements of NES Mikhail Somov for the observations pertinent to and preparation of the ice conditions map. Ivan Chuguy headed this effort and his cooperation is gratefully acknowledged. They also thank Diane Clarke of the Snow and Ice Branch for editing the narrative and clarifying ambiguities in the text by drawing on her own observations during the cruise.



# WEDDELL POLYNYA EXPEDITION: SEA ICE OBSERVATIONS Stephen F. Ackley and Sandra J. Smith

### INTRODUCTION

This report contains data sets that describe the ice conditions encountered by the vessel Mikhail Somov during the Weddell Polynya Expedition. The expedition was a multidisciplinary effort consisting of physical oceanography, biological oceanography, chemical oceanography, sea ice studies, atmospheric boundary layer studies, and upper air observations during late winter and spring in the eastern part of the Weddell Sea (near 60°S latitude, 0° longitude) in areas covered by pack ice. Figure 1 shows the cruise track and study area in relation to Antarctica. A summary of the scientific activities is given in Gordon and Sarukhanyan (1982). Narrative cruise reports describing each scientific component in more detail may be found in the U.S. Expedition Report - WEPOLEX (Gordon 1982).

The ice conditions encountered are depicted in four ways. There were two sets of independent vessel-based observations: 1) An ice observation map was constructed by the Soviet scientific party based on visual observations of ice conditions at about 3-hour intervals (Fig. 2). 2) Visual observations were made and photographs taken at about the same intervals by a member of the American scientific party (see Appendix). Two other representations of the ice conditions were obtained by satellite imagery. One, transmitted by satellite directly to the vessel, consisted of visual band facsimile photographs (Appendix) from Soviet meteorological satellites (Meteor Series). The other was composed of weekly maps of ice conditions constructed by the Navy-NOAA Joint Ice Center in Suitland, Maryland. These maps were based primarily on microwave satellite images from the NIMBUS-7 Scanning Multifrequency Microwave Radiometer (SMMR) (Fig. 3).

The primary purpose of this report is to present these data sets in one accessible location. Some comparisons are made among the data sets. A more detailed discussion of the differences will be the subject of future reports.

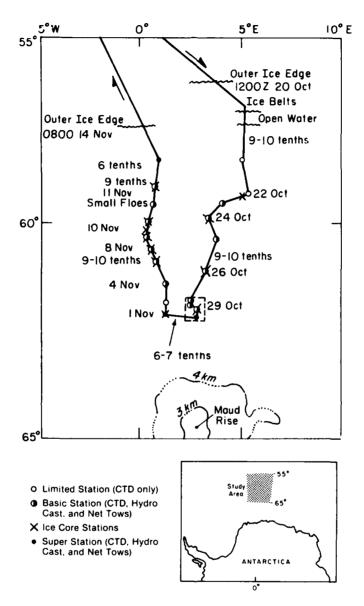


Figure 1. Cruise track of the NES <u>Mikhail</u> <u>Somov</u>, 20 Oct - 14 Nov 1981.

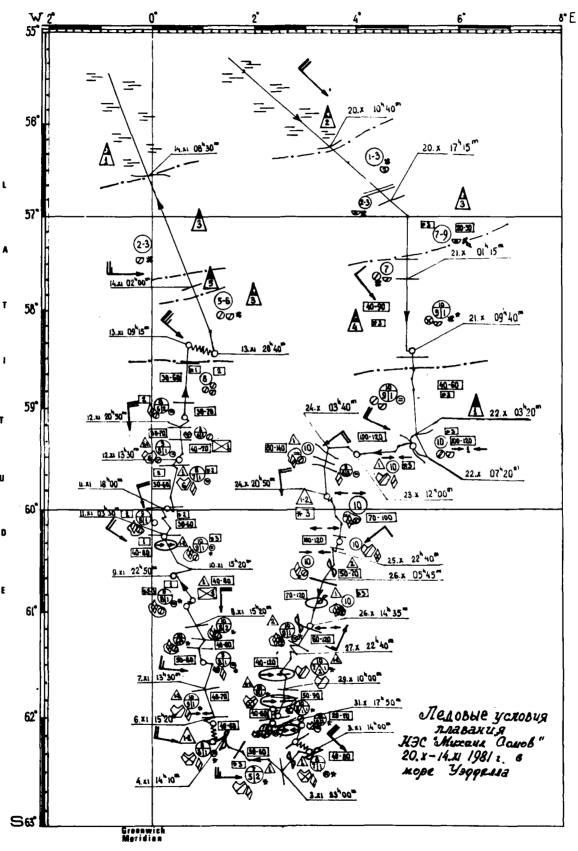


Figure 2. Ice conditions during the voyage of the NES  $\underline{\text{Mikhail Somov}}$ , 20 Oct - 14 Nov 1981 (20.x-14.xl 1981) in the Weddell Sea. (Prepared by Soviet party aboard ship.)

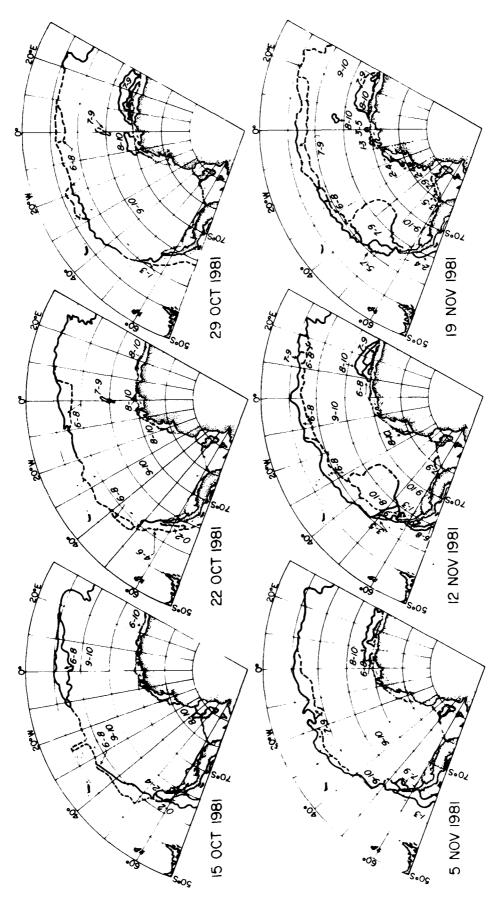


Figure 3. Sea ice extent and concentration during October and November 1981, taken from the Navy-NOAA Joint Ice Center maps.

### ICE CONDITION DATA SETS

The ice map prepared by the Soviet party is shown in Figure 2. The ship's track is represented by the solid arrow-line.

The daily ice observation sheets in the Appendix are divided into the date plus five columns. The second and third (Hour and Symbols) columns refer to information taken directly off the ice map. The Description of Symbols (column 4) is a direct interpretation of the grouping of Russian symbols, each depicting a specific ice condition at that time and point along the ship's track. The symbols were interpreted by using a Russian-to-English dictionary and the Soviet Monograph "Sea Ice Nomen-clature: Conventional Terms Used on Ice Maps" (1974). The final two columns (5 and 6) are visual observations of the ice conditions as described by S.F. Ackley in his ice observation log recorded aboard ship at the specific time and date in column 1. Photographs taken at ship level at the time indicated on the ice observation sheets are also shown.

For any given day some discrepancies can be seen between the ice map description (derived from the symbols) and the ice log narrative for corresponding times. These discrepancies are explained by the "averaging" technique apparently used by the ship's party in representing the ice conditions. The symbols on the map represent the overall ice conditions during some spatial (a few kilometers) or temporal (hours) period. The ice log narrative, on the other hand, describes the conditions alongside the ship at the time of the observation (± minutes) and within the visual range of the observer (less than about 1 km). If both techniques were used correctly, then the ice map representation should be the "sum" of the ice log observations for any given day. A number of factors will, however, introduce error into such a comparative procedure, including the frequency of the ice log observations, observer bias (both in detailing ice characteristics and in regional averaging), ship speed, and weather conditions (visibility). In most cases, there is reasonable agreement between the map and the ice log narrative; where there is not, one or more of the factors described above are responsible.

Figure 3 shows the weekly ice maps for the Weddell Sea sector prepared by the Navy-NOAA Joint Ice Center (after Gordon, in press). The major feature shown on these maps is the relatively high ice concentration (9-10 tenths) in the interior regions of the pack ice. On 22 and 29 October 1981

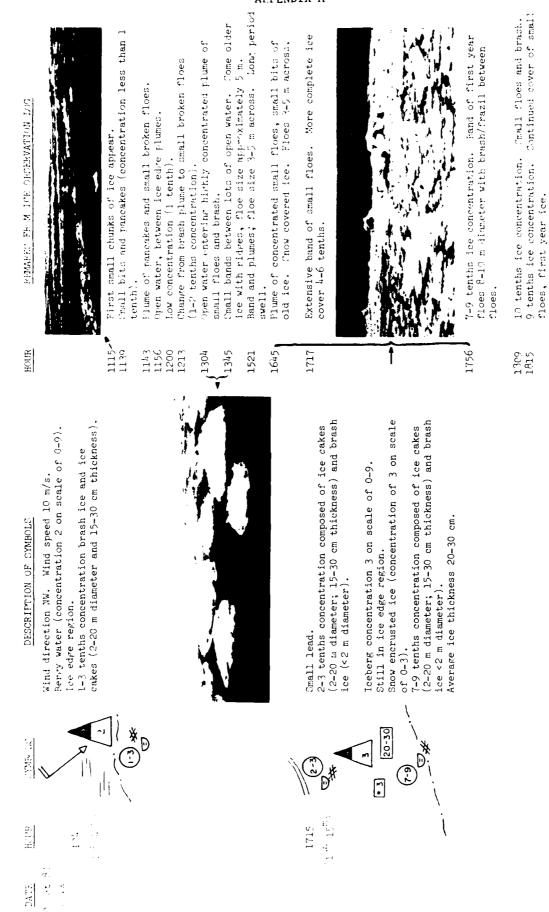
an area of reduced concentration (7-9 tenths) appears in the region of 65°S, 0° longitude. This feature at the time of observation was thought to be "polynya-like." However, as shown on the later maps (5 and 12 November) the ice concentration subsequently increased. This feature was also detected on the Soviet meteorological satellite images (Appendix), thus verifying the microwave interpretation of the lesser concentration.

The meteorological satellite photo for each day (with grid overlay indicating geographical coordinates) is shown on the page adjacent to the same day's ground-level ice observation sheets in the Appendix. If the ice cover is not obscured by clouds, these photos can give a regional-level view of ice conditions. For reference the ship's position on the indicated day is shown by a dot on the satellite photo.

### LITERATURE CITED

- Gordon, A.L. (Ed.) (1982) U.S. expedition report WEPOLEX 1981. Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory Miscellaneous Paper.
- Gordon, A.L. and E.I. Sarukhanyan (1982) American and Soviet expedition into the Southern Ocean sea ice in October and November 1981. EOS, vol. 63, no. 1, p. 2.
- Gordon, A.L. (in press) The US-USSR Weddell Polynya Expedition. Antarctic Journal of the United States.
- Nomenklatura morskikh l'dov. Uslovnye obozhnacheniia d'lia ledovykh kart (Sea ice nomenclature. Conventional terms used on ice maps.) (1974)
  Leningrad, Gidrometeoizdat (CRREL Bibliography 30-737).

## APPENDIX: ICE MAP INTERPRETATION AND DAILY ICE OBSERVATION LOG APPENDIX A



Lesser concentration (5-6 tenths). Frazil between	9-10 tenths ice concentration with new ice, 9-10 tenths ice concentration, small floes.	9-10 tenths ice concentration. New ice between floes. Floe size increasing with several >10 m.	Open water. Ice band appearing. Belts of small to medium floes alternating with	bands of open water. Swell continues. Open water, entering band, some rafted and ridged ice. Floe sizes 8-10 m.	Open water alternating with concentrated bands (3-6 tenths ice concentration).
HOUR 1851	1935 2115	2121	2126	7 2240	2304
DESCRIPTION OF SYMBOLD					
SYMBOLS					
HOUR					
28 70t 31	(x.65)				



PRAKROT FROM TOE ORCHRYADYON OF A	10 tenths flocs and new ice. 10 tenths flocs and new ice. 10 tenths flocs: iceber.	8 tenths first year floes; 2 tenths new lon. Continued 10 tenths first year ice with 10-50 new ice. 8-10 diameter floes, swell continues to preserve with estimated 3 mile amplitues.	Continued 19 tenths first year ice with 15 new ise. All new ice looks like swell renerated by oscillatory motion as pieces "lireaw". Flue diameter review Review R. D. m. with complete the continued of the restriction of the continued of the con	diameter. Distontion first year floes "-1) a diameter. Distontion first year floes "-1) a diameter. Distontion for sufficient requirement of an extension for sufficient of the formal potential potential for an extension for the formal for the formal for the formal formal for the formal formal for the formal formal for the formal	Thickness approximately .5-1 m, color in senter of blocks.	10 tenths concentration, approximately 15% new line (swell formed). Between 5-10 m Harster floor, swell continues.	10 tenths concentration, clirity less new lee in the cracks formed by swell proparation. Fines "-11 a diameter.		ice conditions 1) tenths consentently, small fluct (8-1) m) separated by qiprafesty 1 % new los. [Well continues.]
0012	0190 0200 0300	0090	0620	0720	0730	, 0803	0845		123h
Wind NW, 5 m/s.  Wind NW, 5 m/s.  T tenths concentration of small floes (20-100 m diameter; 30-70 cm thickness), and ice cakes (2-20 m diameter; 30-70 cm thickness) and brash ice.  Average ice thickness 40-90 cm. Icebergs (concentration of 4 on scale of 0-9).  Show encrusted ice (concentration of 3 or coals.)	of 0-3).						10 tenths concentration composed of 9 tenths	small ice floes (20-100 m diameter; 70-120 cm thickness) and ice cakes (2-20 m diameter; 30-70 cm thickness) and 1 tenth brash ice (<2 m diameter) and light Wilas (5-10 cm thickness).	
COMMOLES 4 40-90							( <u>0</u>	** D 8	
0115 (31 <sup>21</sup> 16 <sup>21</sup> )							0760	( )o <sup>h</sup>	
DATE 21 'et fl				A5					

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100 CT 10

lee conditions 1) tenths concentration, small Election 8-10 m diameter, asproximately 1% new 196.
In tenths concentration small 2) es s-1% or diameter.
Fory few ridges, spiroximately 1% new 196 tenths.
Floor, swell continue to tenths 1% page.

E TE E BESTARRE FROM 19 B OROBRYATION 100	Thicker floes, prester diameter. Twell amplitude diminished to approximately 1 m. Floe diameter increased in the detail of the 20-25 m. New ice down to make the contract of the 20-25 m.	<b>3</b> 1 → 4 · +2	(1) 2003 [se concentration 10 tenths. 90-95" first year flow 25 m or larrer with new ice. 2052 [Socentration 10 tenths. Owell, knoken flows 25	2206 Thinhily older floer. Snow drifting into small ridges, dunes, and furchans. Floes still broken recently but evidence for small ridges rather than new ice between the floes, diameter remains at 20-25 m.	2247 Floe size continues to increase at 30 m diameter or greater. Clier looking with packed snow surfaces. 2323 Area of some converience with young low ridging observed. 7-6 floes per ship length bus longer	axis usually normal so floe sizes in mare clearly in evidence.	
DESCRIPTION OF CYMROLE							
STORMS							
DATE HOUR	<b>6</b>				A6		



In tenths concentration, floes thicker and larger. Thicker floes >1 m, >40 m diameter. Large ice chunks.  English of the convergence of the conver	
HOUR 0000 0200 0306 0306 0528 0720	
Average ice thickness 40-60 cm. Snow encrusted ice, concentration 3 (on scale of 0-3). Iceberg concentration 1 (0-9 scale). Iceberg concentration, composed of 9/10 small floes (20-100 m diameter, 30-70 cm thickness), and ice cakes (2-20 m diameter, 30-70 cm thickness), and ice cakes (2-20 m diameter, 30-70 cm thickness). I5-30 cm thickness). Wind speed 10 m/sec, NW direction. Average ice thickness 100-120 cm  Snow encrusted ice concentration 3 (0-3 scale). I0 tenths concentration consisting of small floes (20-100 m diameter, 120 cm thickness) and ice cakes (2-20 m diameter, 30-70 cm thickness). Average ice thickness 100-120 cm.	Floes and ice cakes compacting; converging.
1000 P (01-80) P	! <b>!</b>
103 20 0720 0720 0720 0720	
22 oct 81 (22.x)	



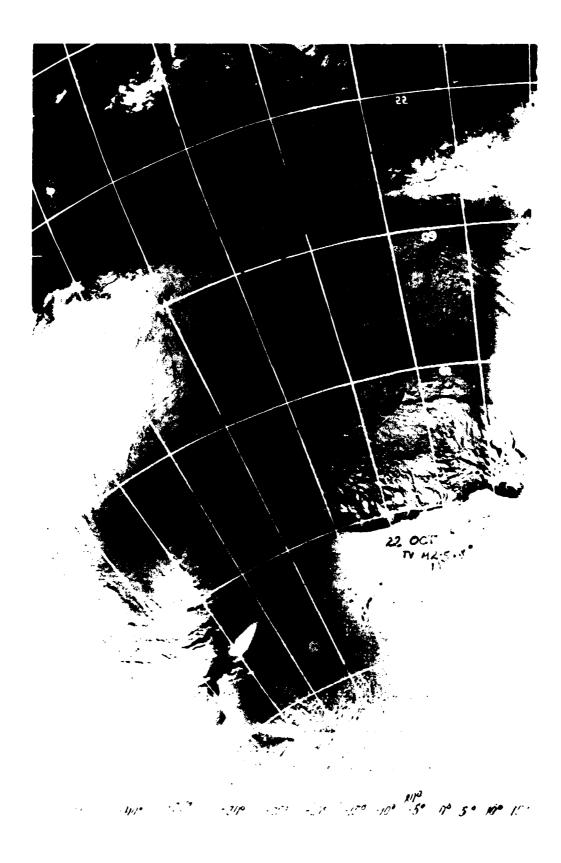
Ice conditions compact, older floes,  $40-50~\mathrm{m}$  diameter

Iceberg.

converging. Ice station, cores 1 and 2.
Small floes, some flooding from swell action, leads.
8-9 tenths concentration.
Small floes with leads, 8-9 tenths concentration.

Old ice with ridges 10 tenths concentration. Heavily ridged old ice. 10 tenths concentration. Close packed older ice, 10 tenths concentration.

Lots of slush patches.



. 12 11

CATE



A11

REMARKS FROM ICE OKSENVATION LOG 10 tenths concentration. Snowing.		10 tenths concentration.  10 tenths concentration.  1ce looks very convergent, all old cracks closed with large floes and leads developing. Looks more like deep pack conditions.  Narrow lead in 10 tenths concentration. Large floe lead structure, some ridges.  Lead-large floe structure continues. Ice looks quite weak but compact conditions.  Area of thinner ice.  Pressure dropping, warm air. Ice conditions 9-10 tenths with leads.  First year floes with narrow leads, 10 tenths.  Concentration.  First year floes with lead. Snowing, slush from snow forming in leads.  First year floes with narrow leads, 10 tenths concentration.  First year floes with narrow leads, 10 tenths concentration.  Traversing rubble field of old ice, several chunks.	Ice station, cores 3 and 4. First year ice high concentration. Visibility, fok, 10 tenths concentration.
HOUR 0000-0200 0256		0.420-0.700 $0.926$ $0.926$ $0.937$ $0.023$ $1.116$ $1.225$ $1.253$ $1.507$	1622 1730 2010
DESCRIPTION OF SYMBOLS	Wind speed 10 m/s, NE. Some leads. 9 tenths concentration consisting of 6 tenths medium floes (100-500 m diameter, 30-70 cm thickness) and 3 tenths small floes (20-100 m diameter, 15-30 cm thickness).		
SYMBOLS:	(1) (8) (S)	ille 7 : 1 Management	
HOUR N	5340 (33 <sup>th</sup> 45th)		
24 Cet 31		A13	

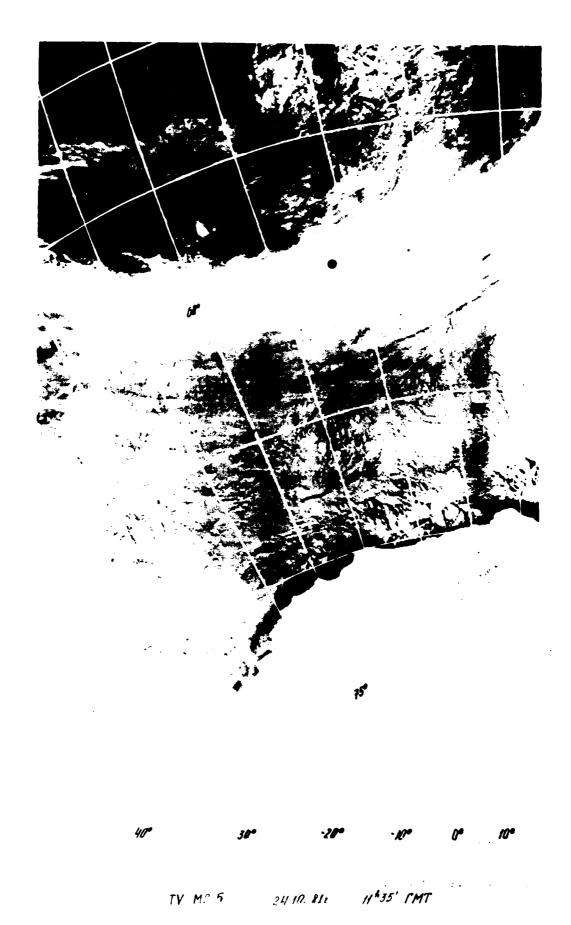
Nidging concentration 1 (0-5 scale). 10 tenths concentration ice Breccia composed of medium floes (100-500 m diameter, 120 cm thick) and small floes (20-100 m diameter, 30-70 cm thickness). Wind 10 m/s, N. Average ice thickness 80-140 cm.

Snow encrusted concentration of 3 (0-3). Ice Ridging, hummocks 1-2 concentration (on 0-5 scale).

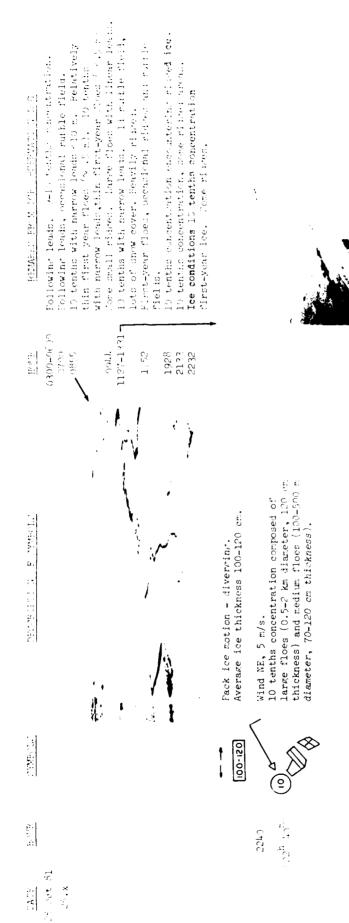
10 tenths concentration ice Breccia consist-70-120 cm thick) and small floes (20-100 m ing of medium floes (100-500 m diameter, Average ice thickness 70-100 cm. diameter, 70-120 cm thickness). Pack ice motion diverging.

(2)

A14



A15





A17

REMARET FROM 17% OF TRYALL ALL 12/95	Nome leads; 10 tenths concentration.	Following leads.	Larre lead (200 m wide). Many leads, concentration down to 9 tenths.  Ice 9-10 tenths, this jatched and leads.  Traversing 9-10 tenths concentration, leads with	first year floes; occasional ridge and subble. Lead >500 m, occasional rough spots at corners. Lead 9-10 tenths concentration. Rome thin ice possibly slush from snow.	Lead and larve floe structure, first year flocs.			Ice concentration 10 tenths with leads. First year floes with occasional rubble and pressure ridre areas, 13 tenths concentration. First year floes for station, worse 5 and 6.		
盖	0238	0400-0800	0900	1134	(1467)	1	ALLEGA SEALING	1455 1705 1715	1 - - 1	
DESCRIPTION OF SYMBOLS	Pack ice motion - converging. 10 tenths concentration. 1ce Breccia consisting of medium floes (100-500 m diameter, 30-70 cm thickness) and small floes (20-100 m diameter, 30-70 cm thickness).	Ridging 2 on a scale of 0-5. Very small fractures (50-200 m). Average ice thickness 50-70 cm.				Average ice thickness 70-120 cm. Ridging concentration of 1 (scale 0-5). Snow encrusted concentration 3 (scale	Fracture zone.  Fracture zone.  Otherhis concentration ice Breccia composed of medium floes (100-500 m diameter, 70-120 cm thickness) and small floes (20-100 m diameter, 70-120 thickness).			
SYMBOLS			02 - 0 <b>2</b>		<   Con   Co		(S)			
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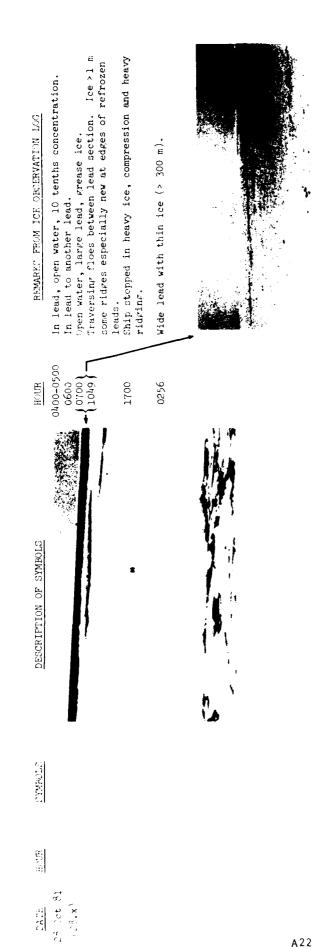


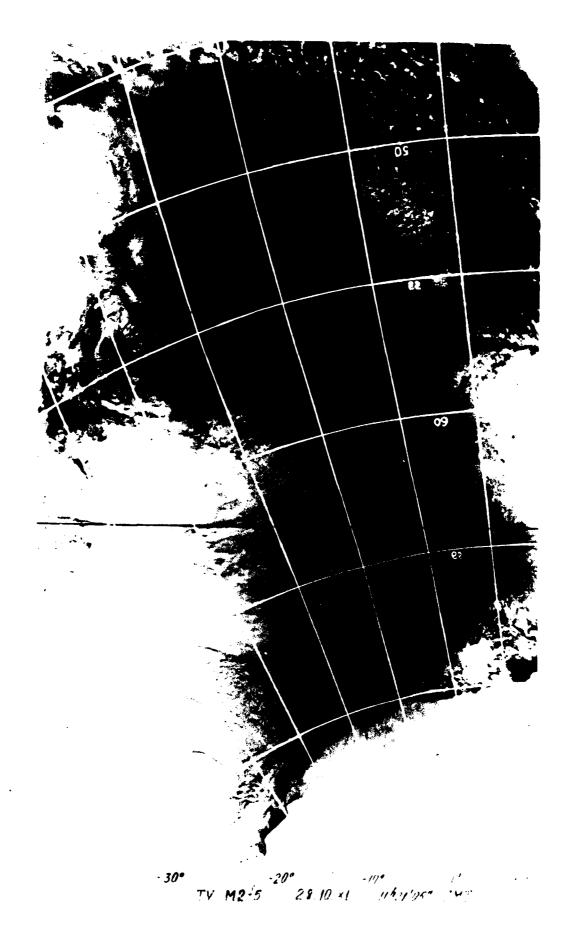
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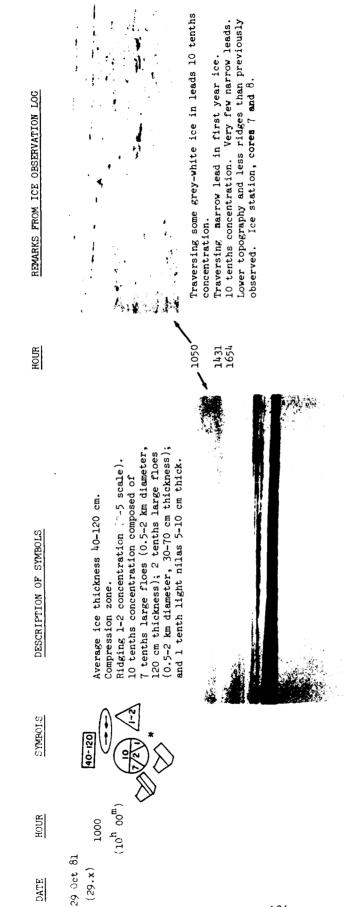
REMARKS FROM ICE ORSERVATION DOS  10 tenths concentration.	10 tenths concentration. 9-10 tenths concentration. Leads. Come for, wreace ice in leads. 10 tenths concentration. Come leads. Occasional rubble field/pressure ridres.	Wide band of grey-white ice 10-15 cm thick, lone small ridges and open water. Wide thin ice areas appear to be locally conversing. Traversing grey-white ice in recent lead. Lots of new ridges (blue cast) indicating recent congression at lead edges.	Ctopped in relatively thin youn, ice (20-30 cm). Lots of new ridges, open water, nearty alternating compressed and diverged areas. Flue ice ridges. Broke through into lead (>100 m in some parts). Grease ice plumes herded into "tadpole" shapes. Wind from Couth.  Traversing lead, some rough spots.	Traversing 1 m thick first year floe, 19 tenths concentration. First year and young ice. Traversing lead with new ice forming. First year floes; some ridging. First year floes with ridges.		
HOUR 0135 0400	0500-0700 0800 0900	7 0952 1022 1030	1632	1801 1904 1957 2208		
DESCRIPTION OF SYMBOLS				Ridging concentration 2 (scale 0-5).	Very small fractures (0-50 cm).  10 tenths concentration; 9 tenths ice Breccia composed of medium floes (100- 500 m diameter, 70-120 cm thickness) and small floes (20-100 m diameter, 70-120 cm thickness); and 1 tenth small floes (20-100 m diameter, 15-30 cm thickness) and light nilas 5-10 cm thick. Fack ice - diverging. Avenge ice - diverging. Avenge ice - diverging.	
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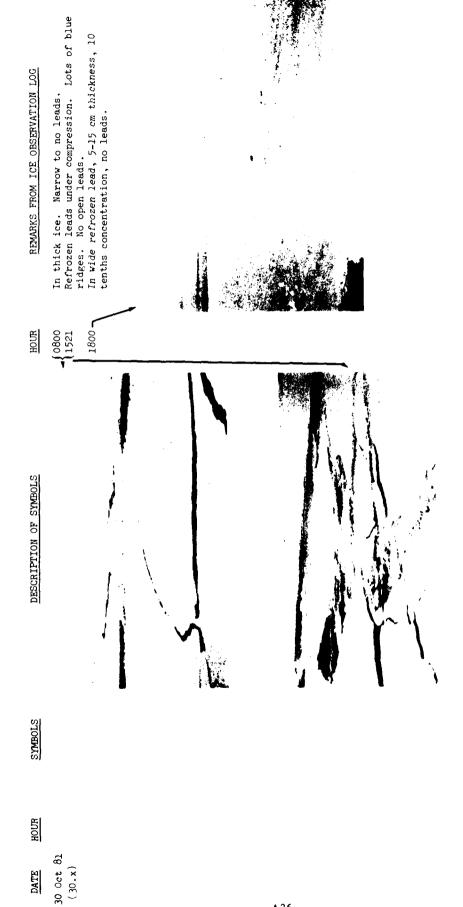


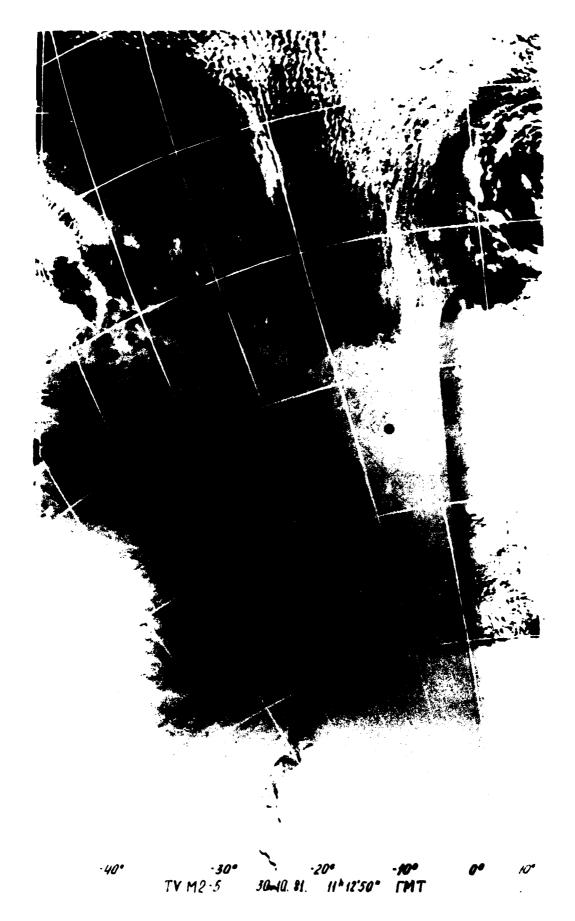






A25





A27

Light snow.

0800

HOUR

In rubble field with fairly larve ridge.

1346

thickness) and small floes (20-100 m diameter, 70-120 cm thickness); and light nilas 5-10 cm. 10 tenths concentration composed of 9 tenths large floes (0.5-2 km diameter, 30-70 cm  $\,$ Ridged ice 0-1 concentration (scale 0-5). Average ice thickness 40-80 cm. Compression zone.

10 tenths concentration consisting of  $\theta$  tenths thickness); 1 tenth small floes (20-100 m diameter, 30-70 cm thickness); and 1 tenth large floes (0.5-2 km diameter, 70-120 cm light nilas 5-10 cm.

Average ice thickness 50-90 cm.

tenths large floes (0.5-2 km diameter, 30-70 cm thickness) and small floes (20-100 m  $\,$ diameter, 15-30 cm thickness); and 2 tenths 10 tenths concentration consisting of  $\boldsymbol{\vartheta}$ Average ice thickness 20-70 cm. light nilas (5-10 cm).

tenths large floes (0.5-2 km diameter, 30-70 cm thickness) and  $^{\mu}$  tenths small floes (20-100 m diameter, 15-30 cm thickness). 10 tenths concentration consisting of 6 Compression zone.

Ship drifting

or<sup>c</sup>o



In SE trending lead.

Traversing open water. Wide leads.

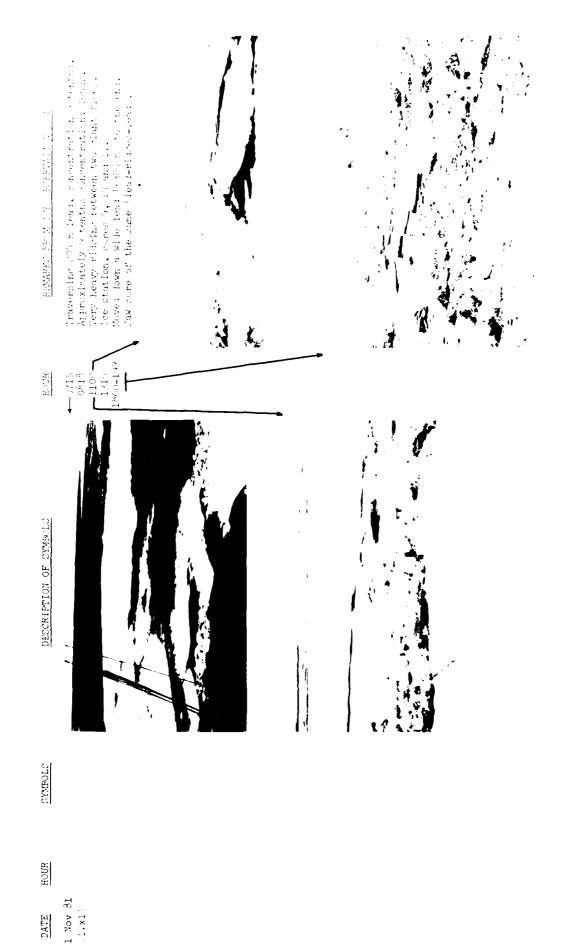


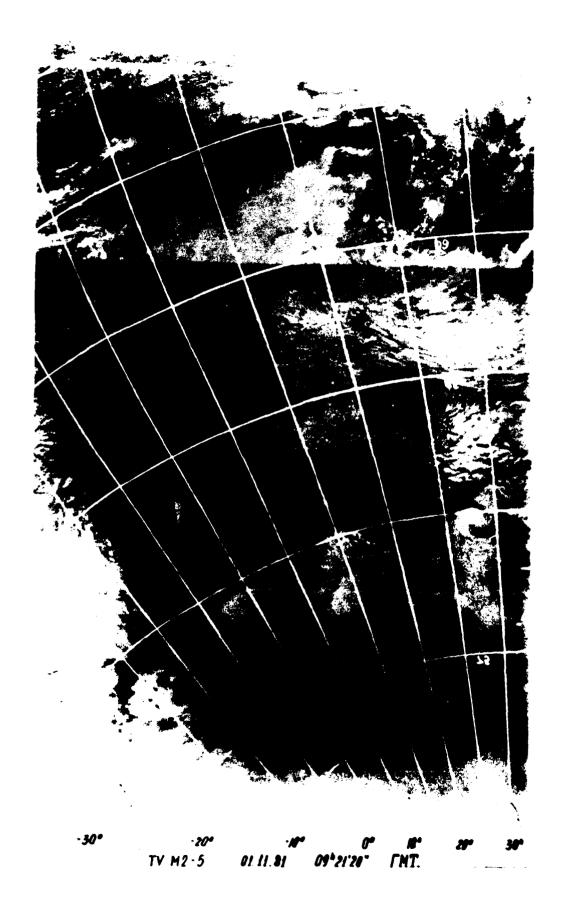
Larre lead open water, fetch > 500 m upwind of Praversing an approximately 300 m wide lead. ice ridges and open water. mast location.



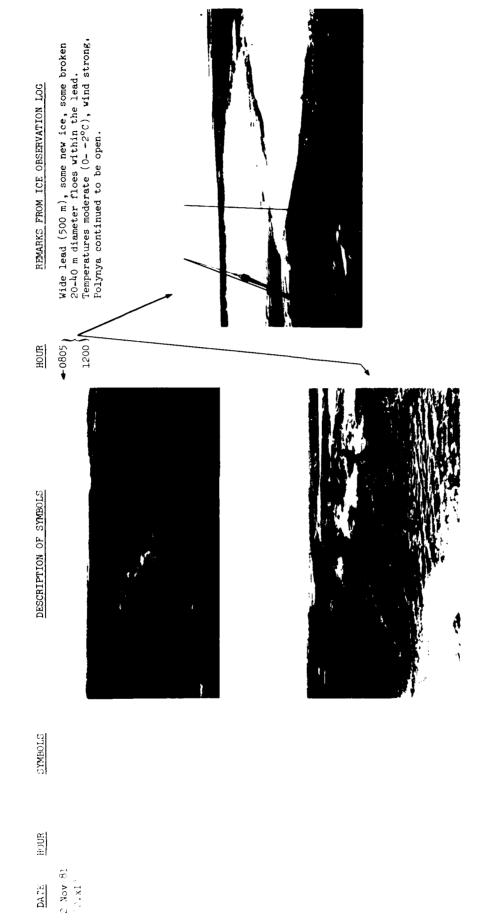


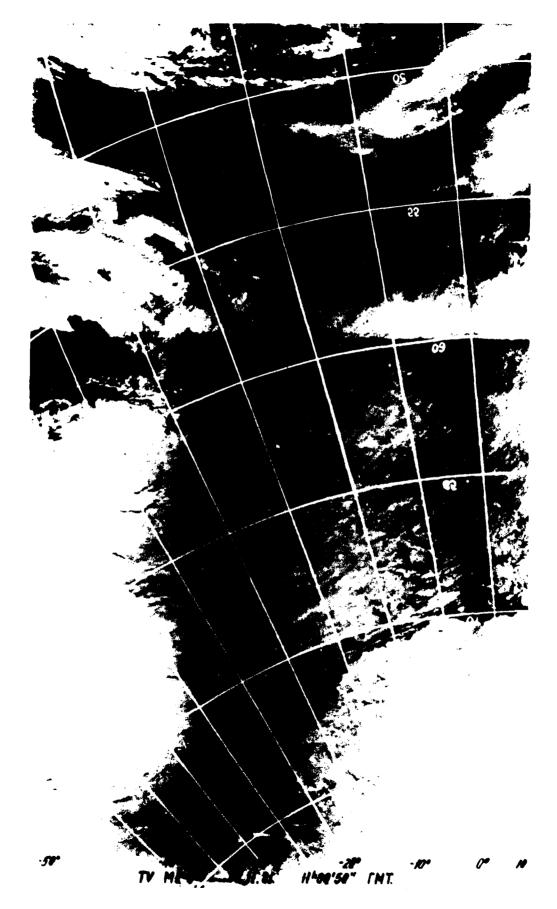
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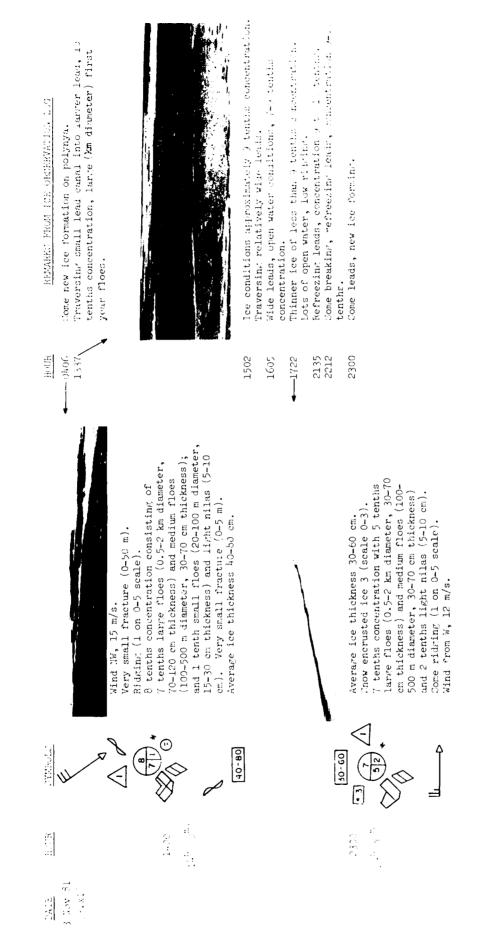


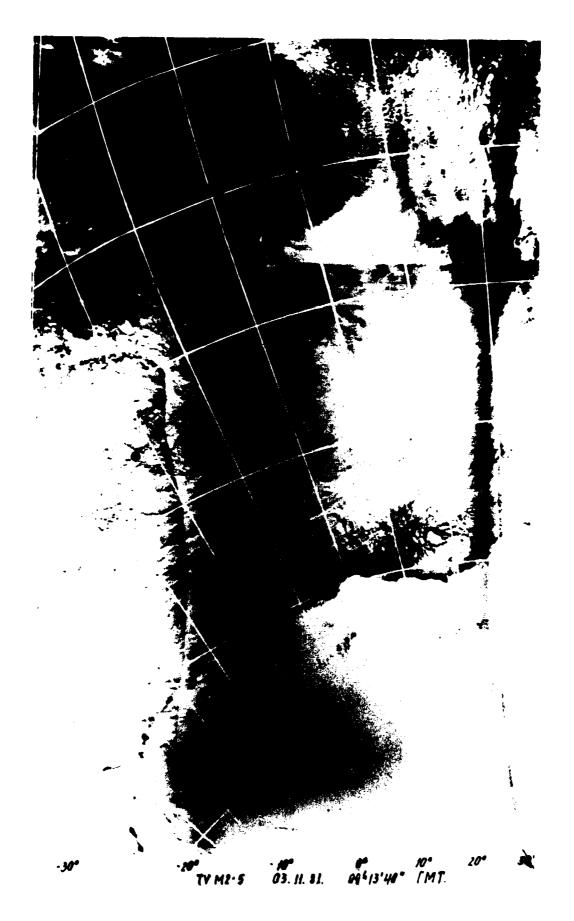


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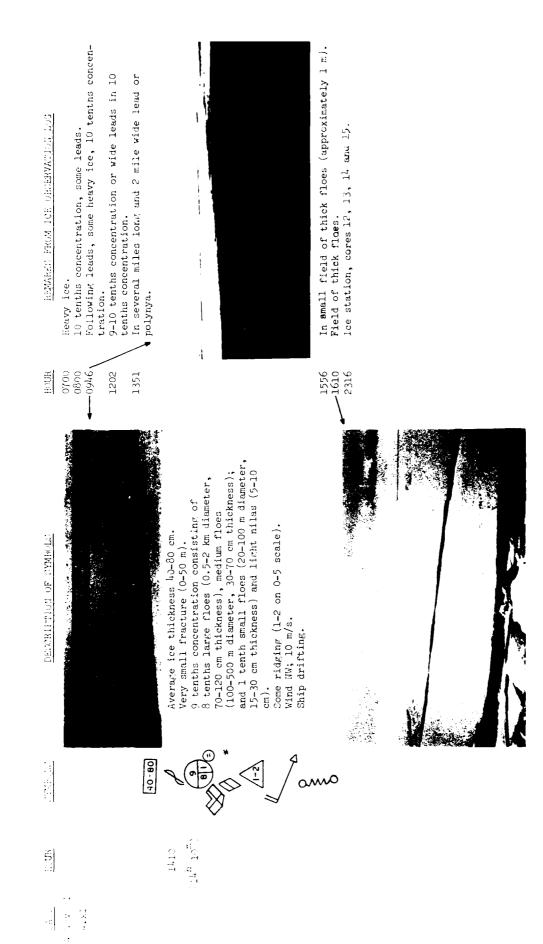


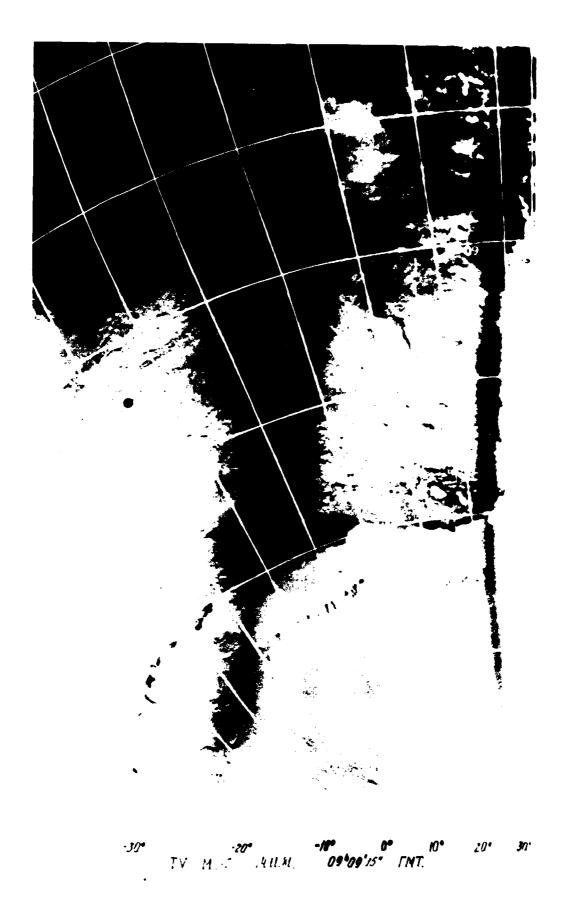




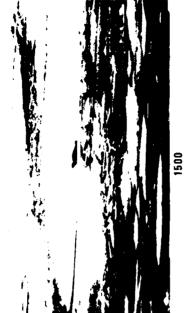


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A37







DESCRIPTION OF SYMPOSE

SYMBOLS

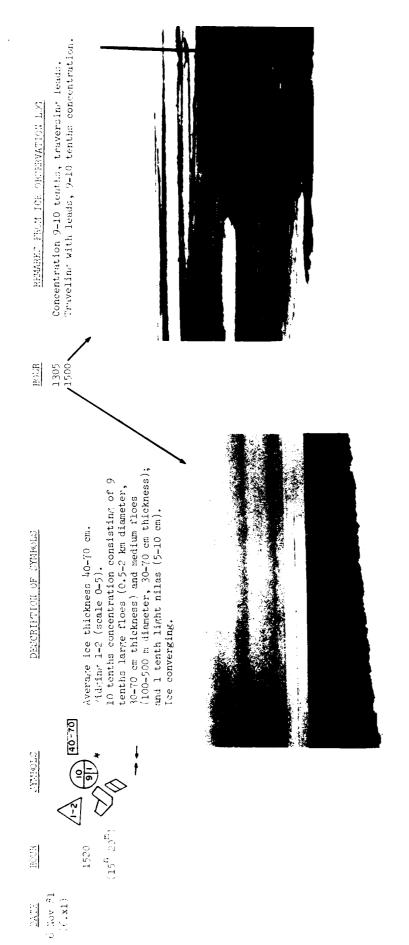
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DATE

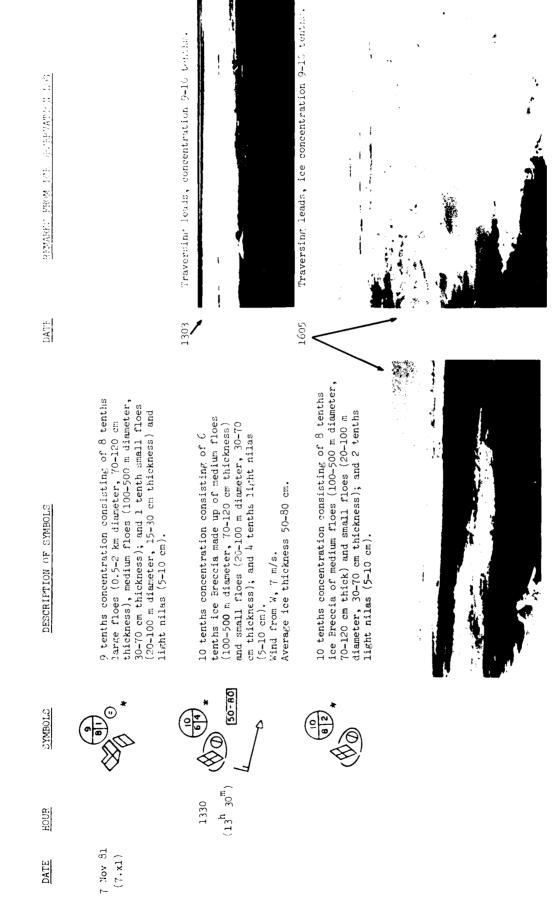
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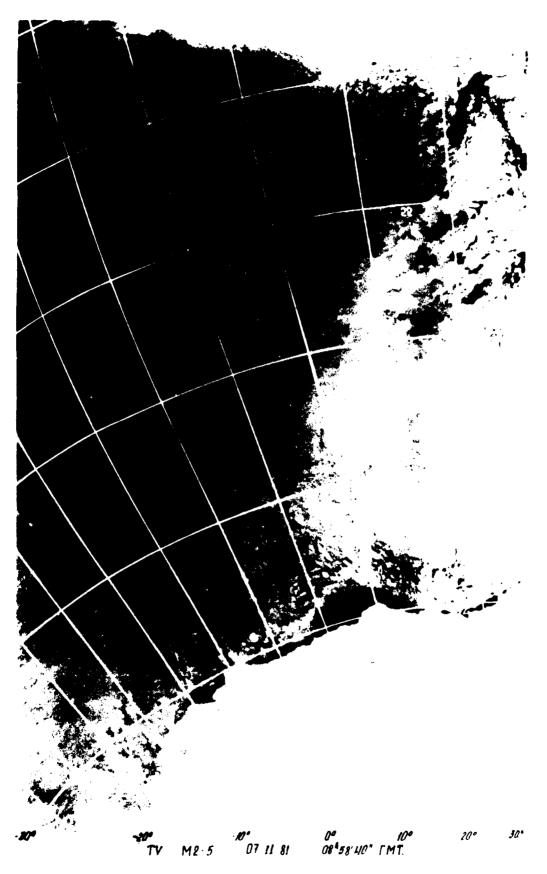


TV M2-5 05.11.81 09405'15" FMT

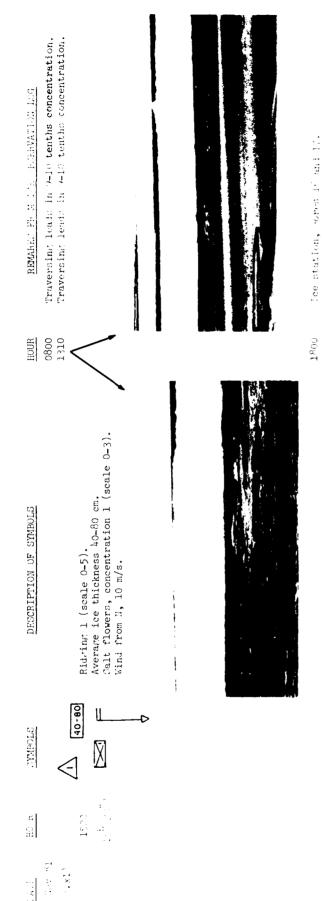


NOTE: There was no satellite photo available for 6 November 1981.





A43



A44



-30° -20° -20° -20° TV M2-5 08.11.81 08.53'40" [MT

REMARKS FROM ICE OBSERVATION LOG	
1:0UR	
	•
DESCRIPTION OF SYMBOLS	
STABOLS	
HOUR	
DACE	

15.vel

Botting ice concentration 1 (scale 0-5).
Jow encusted ice 2-3 concentration
(scale 0-3).

First year ice, some leads. Less open water, lots of refrozen leads. Traversed area of open water to thin ice to thin ice with compression. New ridges, Ice station, cores 18 and  $19^\circ$ .

1200 1340 1800

9 tenths concentration composed of 8 tenths medium floes (100-500 m diameter, 70-120 cm thickness) and small floes (20-100 m diameter, 30-70 cm thickness); and 1 tenth small floes (20-100 m diameter, 15-30 cm thickness) and light nilas (5-10 cm).





Tee station, cores 22 and 23.

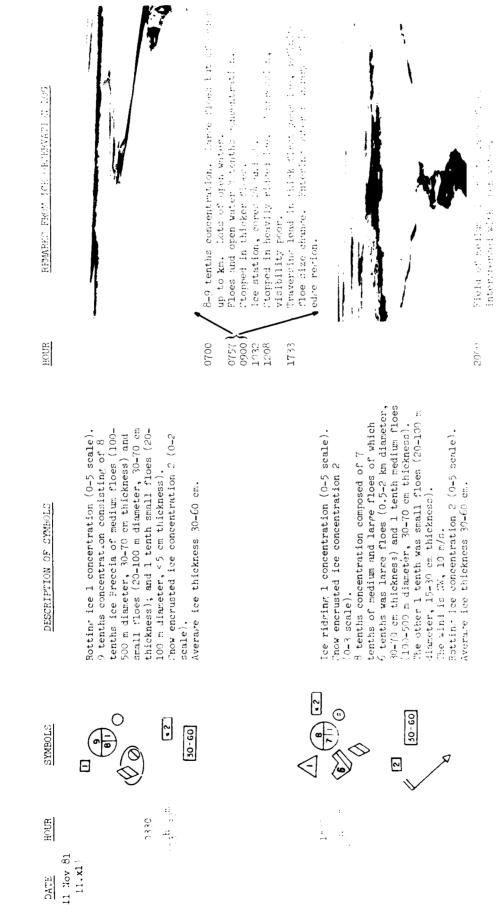
12215

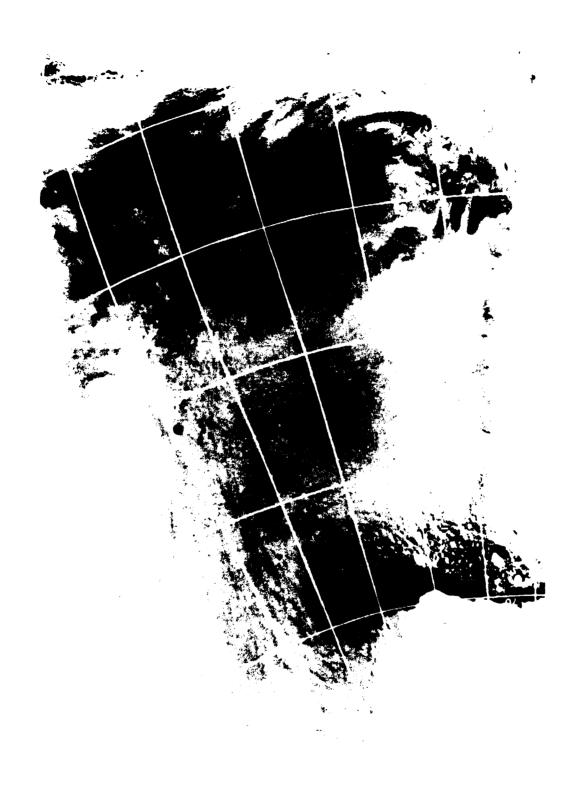
A48

Average ice thickness 40-80 cm.

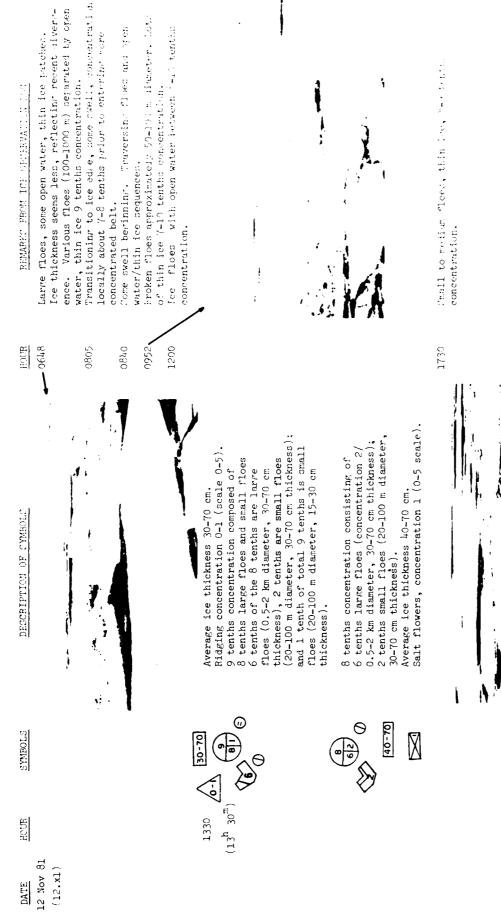


- .20° .00° 0° 20° \$V M2.5 10.11.21. 024 46'15" [MT.



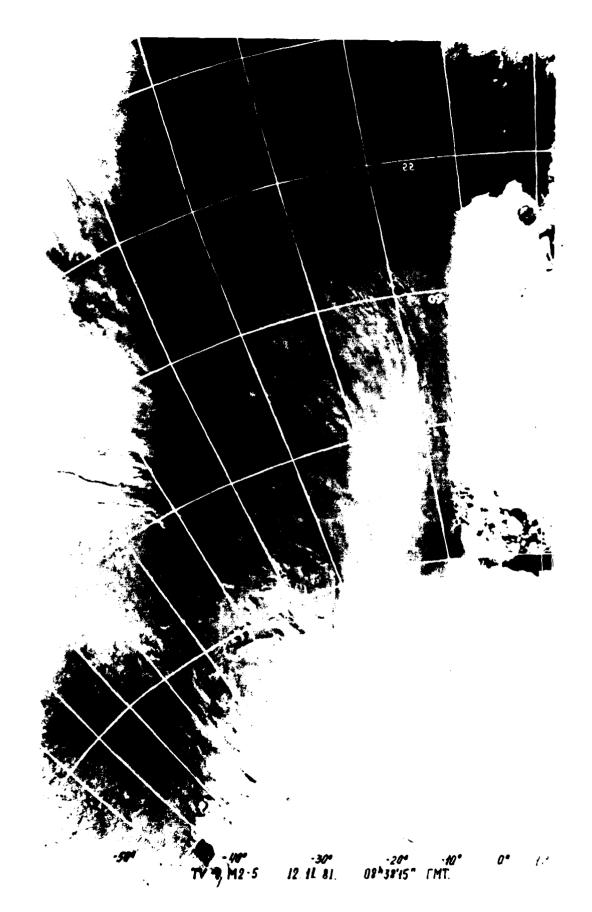


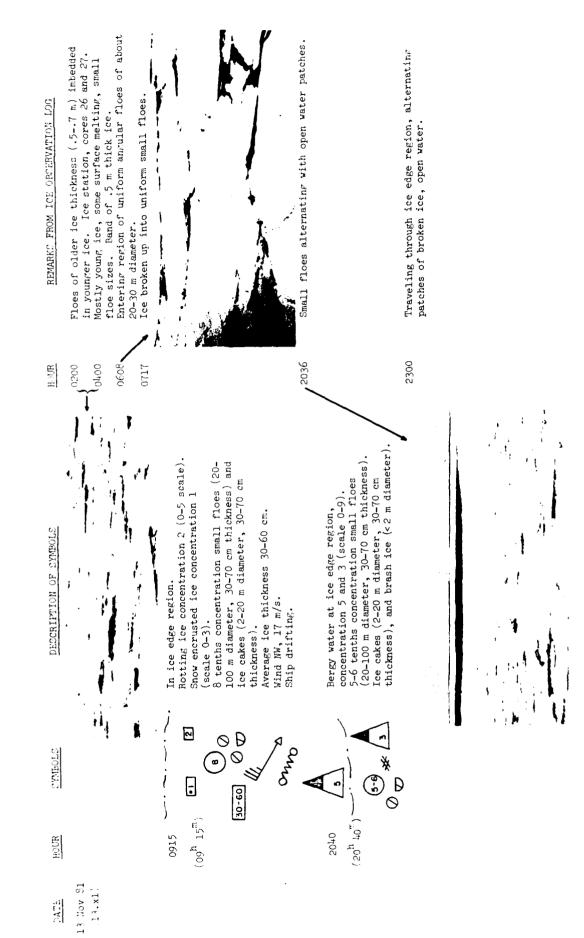
-20° -10° 0° 10° 20° TV M2-5 11.11.81. 08442'30" FMT.

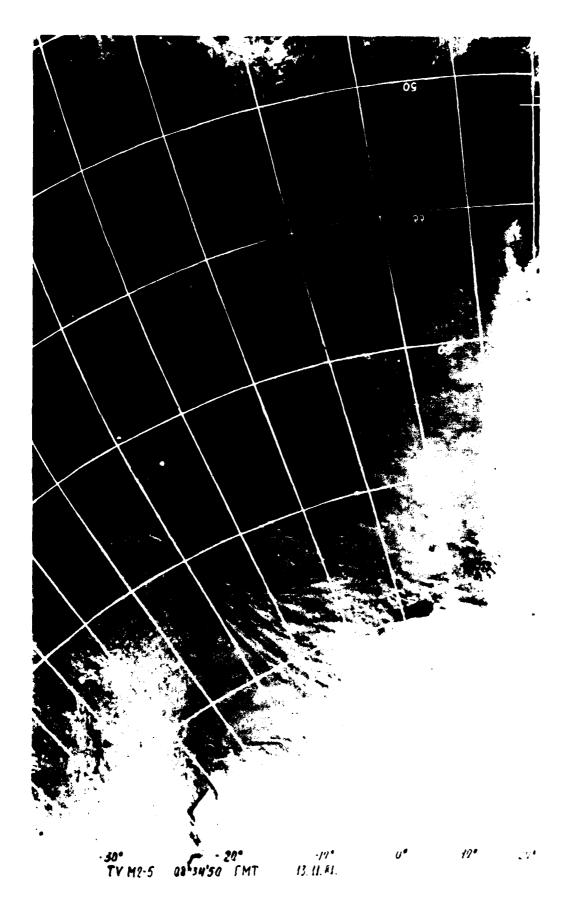


REMARKS FROM ICE OBSERVATION LOS	In ice edge region. Exclusively younr ice of less than approximately 30 cm thickness. Ridring down. Concentration 9-10 tenths.
HOUR	5000
DESCRIPTION OF SYMBOLS	Rotting ice concentration 2 (scale 0-5).  8 tenths concentration consisting of 6 tenths medium floes (100-500 m diameter, 30-70 cm thickness) and small floes (20- 100 m diameter, 30-70 cm thickness); and 2 tenths small floes (2000 m diameter, 15-30 cm thickness).  Average ice thickness 30-70 cm. Wind from the N, 15 m/s.
SYMBOLS	(a) (b) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c
HOUR	2050 (20 <sup>h</sup> 50 <sup>m</sup> )

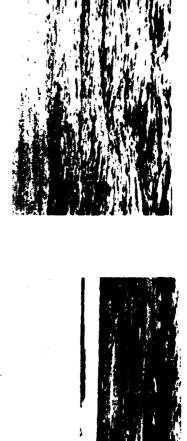
DATE 12 Nov 81 (12.x1)

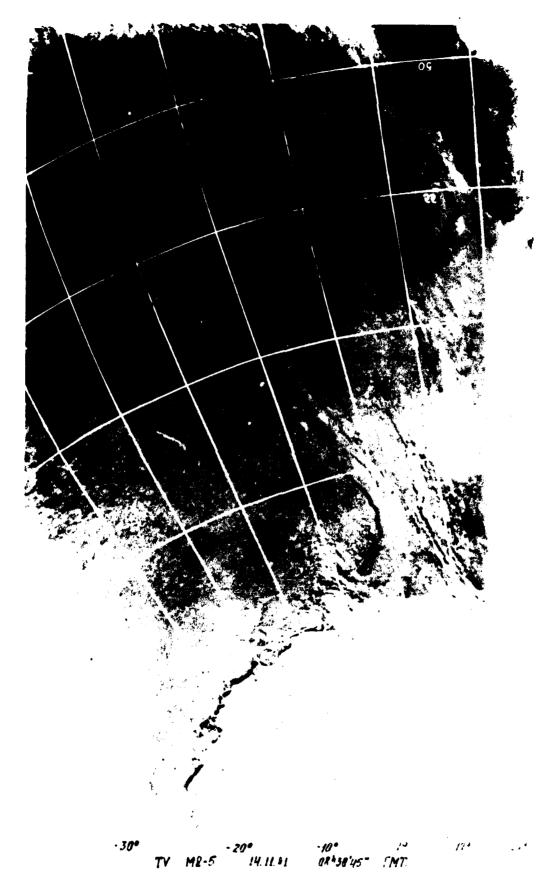






PEMARKO FROM ICE OPCIEPVACI AL ECO	Traveling through ice edge region, alternating patches of broken ice open water.	Increasing open water. Rands of ice at 100% concnetration alternating with open water. Rands and strips, small bits in water. Small bands of ice. Plumes from belts of more concentrated ice.	More widely separated being of ite	
HOUR	0500	0400 0430 0503 0508 0615	0654 0700 0705 0715 0811	
DESCRIPTION OF SYMBOLS	Ice berg concentration 3 (0-9). 2-3 tenths concentration ice cakes (2-20 m diameter, 30-70 cm thickness) and brash ice (< 2 m diameter) at ice edge region. Wind from W, at 12 m/s.			Ice edge region. Icebergs concentration 1 (0-9 scale). Entering open water.
SYMBOLE	* \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	↑ <b>™</b>	11	
HOUR	0200 (02 <sup>h</sup> 00 <sup>m</sup> )			0830 (08 <sup>h</sup> 30 <sup>m</sup> )
DATE	14 Nov 81 (14.x1)		A	.58





## FILMED

8-83